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UNCLAS ZAGREB 001989

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR PM/DTCC

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: BLUE LANTERN UPDATE FOR CROATIA

REF: STATE 259174

¶1. EMBASSY ZAGREB'S PRINCIPAL BLUE LANTERN CONTACT IS POL-MIL OFFICER ANTHONY GODFREY, TEL 385-1-661-2260, FAX 385-1-661-2178, EMAIL: GODFREYA@STATE.GOV. GODFREY IS EXPECTED TO DEPART POST IN LATE JUNE 2004.

¶2. EMBASSY ZAGREB USES A TEAM APPROACH AND TAKES BLUE LANTERN CHECKS SERIOUSLY. OVERSIGHT OF THE BLUE LANTERN PROCESS IS CARRIED OUT BY THE DCM. POST'S DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE AND OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN BLUE LANTERN CHECKS, AS DOES THE FCS OFFICE, WHEN APPROPRIATE. POST HAS A RECORD OF CARRYING OUT BLUE LANTERN CHECKS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER RECEIPT.

¶3. THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH POST IMPLEMENTS THE BLUE LANTERN PROGRAM CONTINUES TO IMPROVE. A LOOSELY-ENFORCED UN WEAPONS EMBARGO FORCED CROATIA TO SEEK SOURCES OF WEAPONS OUTSIDE NORMAL GOVERNMENT CHANNELS DURING ITS "HOMELAND WAR" THROUGH MID-1995. CROATIA BEGAN TO IMPROVE CONTROLS OF DEFENSE TRADE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR. NOW, AS A SERIOUS ASPIRANT FOR AN INVITATION TO JOIN NATO, THE GOC HAS SHARPLY INCREASED GOVERNMENT CONTROLS OVER THE TRADE IN WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS. POST'S OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION MAINTAINS ACTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH MOST POTENTIAL RECIPIENTS OF U.S. - ORIGIN DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES SOLD COMMERCIALLY. LEGITIMATE DEALERS AND SEVERAL OF CROATIA'S ARMS MANUFACTURERS HAVE ENTERED INTO COOPERATIVE COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH U.S. FIRMS AND ARE EAGER TO COOPERATE WITH BLUE LANTERN CHECKS.
FRANK

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